

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

[c01] A method of providing communications services, comprising the steps of:

allowing a subscriber to create a data message;
allowing the subscriber to associate the data message to an originating party and to a recipient;
receiving a communication from the originating party; and
communicating the data message to the recipient via an Internet Protocol communications network.

[c02] A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the communication comprises receiving a telephone call intended to terminate at a telephone number associated with the subscriber.

[c03] A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the communication comprises receiving an electronic communication addressed to the subscriber.

[c04] A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of allowing the subscriber to create the data message comprises allowing the subscriber to create an audio message.

[c05] A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of allowing the subscriber to create the data message comprises allowing the subscriber to access a user interface via an Internet Protocol communications network, the user interface prompting the subscriber to create the data message and to associate the data message to a recipient.

[c06] A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of allowing the subscriber to create the data message comprises allowing the subscriber to specify a time of day that the data message is communicated to the recipient.

- [c07] A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing the subscriber to preview the data message.
- [c08] A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of allowing the subscriber to audibly preview the data message.
- [c09] A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of allowing the subscriber to visually preview the data message.
- [c10] A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing the subscriber to attach a computer file to the data message.
- [c11] A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of allowing the subscriber to create the data message comprises allowing the subscriber to record audio content.
- [c12] A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of allowing the subscriber to create the data message comprises allowing the subscriber to input text.
- [c13] A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of accepting voice commands from the subscriber when creating the data message.
- [c14] A method of providing communications services, comprising the steps of:
 - storing a user interface in memory, the user interface allowing a subscriber to compose a data message and to associate that data message with an originating party and with a recipient;
 - receiving a communication from the originating party; and
 - communicating the data message to the recipient.

- [c15] A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of receiving the communication comprises receiving a telephone call intended to terminate at a telephone number associated with the subscriber.
- [c16] A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of receiving the communication comprises receiving an electronic communication addressed to the subscriber.
- [c17] A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of allowing the subscriber to preview the data message.
- [c18] A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of allowing the subscriber to attach a file to the data message.
- [c19] A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of allowing the subscriber to record audio content for the data message.
- [c20] A system, comprising:
- a Communications Module stored in a memory device, and a processor communicating with the memory device;
 - the Communications Module allowing a subscriber to compose a data message and to associate that data message with an originating party and with a recipient, and when a communication from the originating party is received, the Communications Module initiates communication of the data message to the recipient.
- [c21] A computer program product, comprising:
- a computer-readable medium; and
 - a Communications Module stored on the computer-readable medium, the Communications Module allowing a subscriber to compose a data message and to associate that data message with an originating party and with a recipient, and when a

communication from the originating party is received, the Communications Module initiates communication of the data message to the recipient.